

News Release

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Public Affairs Staff

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Stop 0506
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Steve Thompson (202) 720-7961
Steve_Thompson@wdc.fsa.usda.gov

USDA ISSUES 1997 PRICE SUPPORT GRADE LOAN RATES FOR DARK AIR-CURED AND FIRE-CURED TOBACCOS

WASHINGTON, November 26, 1997 -- The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) today issued price support grade loan rates for the 1997-crop Kentucky and Tennessee dark air-cured tobacco, types 35 and 36 and fire-cured tobacco, types 22 and 23.

These grade loan rates reflect the average support level of \$1.398 per pound for dark air-cured tobacco and \$1.623 per pound for fire-cured tobacco.

Adjustments were made in certain grades to reflect the overall grade distribution change. The rates were determined by CCC in consultation with the producer associations that are used to provide price support for the respective types of tobacco.

Grade loan rates for dark air-cured tobacco will range from 49 cents to \$2.19 per pound. Grade loan rates for fire-cured will range from 51 cents to \$2.36 per pound.

The 1997 individual grade loan rates are based on production records which are used for projecting average grade distribution, assuming normal production and weather conditions.

Dark air-cured tobacco grades X5L, X5F, X5R, X5D, X5M, X5G, N1L, N1R, N1G, N2L, N2R, N2G, "No-G" (no grade), "U" (unsound), "W" (doubtful keeping order) or scrap will not be accepted for price support.

Fire-cured tobacco will not be accepted for price support when graded N1L, N1D, N1GL, N1GX, N2, "No-G" (no grade), "U" (unsound), "W" (doubtful keeping order) or scrap.

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- 2 -

Producers are eligible for price support advances only when tobacco is consigned by the producer and only if produced on a farm that is in compliance with the tobacco marketing quota and price support programs. The Associations are authorized to deduct one cent per pound to apply against overhead costs and may be authorized to make other deductions for assessments if required by law.

An experimental project for baled dark air-cured tobacco is being conducted this marketing season. Producers cooperating with their respective loan association may be permitted to sell a limited amount of dark air-cured tobacco in baled form with price support. Interested producers should contact their producer loan association for details.

For further information, contact Steve Freeman at (202) 720-7445, E-MAIL address SFreeman@wdc.fsa.usda.gov

Tables of rates, by types and grades, follow:

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NOTE: Farm Service Agency (FSA) news releases and media advisories are available on the World Wide Web at FSA's Home Page: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>

1997 CROP DARK AIR-CURED TOBACCO PRICE SUPPORT SCHEDULE

(TYPES 35 & 36)

GRADE	LOAN RATE	GRADE	LOAN RATE	GRADE	LOAN RATE
(Cents per pound farm sales weight)					
A1F3	219	B5F3	135	B3D2	175
A1F2	219	B5F2	135	B3D1	160
		B5F1	119		
A2F3	209			B4D3	154
A2F2	209	B1R3	209	B4D2	154
		B1R2	209	B4D1	134
A3F3	204	B1R1	194		
A3F2	204			B5D3	124
		B2R3	199	B5D2	124
A1R3	219	B2R2	199	B5D1	111
A1R2	219	B2R1	184		
				B3M3	132
A2R3	209	B3R3	183	B3M2	132
A2R2	209	B3R2	183	B3M1	117
		B3R1	168		
A3R3	204			B4M3	102
A3R2	204	B4R3	161	B4M2	102
		B4R2	161	B4M1	92
B1F3	214	B4R1	141		
B1F2	214			B5M3	72
B1F1	199	B5R3	135	B5M2	72
		B5R2	135	B5M1	62
B2F3	204	B5R1	115		
B2F2	204			B3G3	132
B2F1	189	B1D3	196	B3G2	132
		B1D2	196	B3G1	117
B3F3	193	B1D1	181		
B3F2	193			B4G3	107
B3F1	178	B2D3	186	B4G2	107
		B2D2	186	B4G1	97
B4F3	166	B2D1	171		
B4F2	166			B5G3	72
B4F1	146	B3D3	175	B5G2	72

GRADE	LOAN RATE	GRADE	LOAN RATE	GRADE	LOAN RATE
(Cents per pound farm sales weight)					
B5G1	62	C1R3	209	C5G2	72
		C1R2	209	C5G1	62
C1L3	199	C1R1	194		
C1L2	199			X1L	146
C1L1	184	C2R3	199	X2L	136
		C2R2	199	X3L	111
C2L3	189	C2R1	184	X4L	84
C2L2	189				
C2L1	174	C3R3	183	X1F	153
		C3R2	183	X2F	143
C3L3	178	C3R1	168	X3F	120
C3L2	178			X4F	89
C3L1	163	C4R3	161		
		C4R2	161	X1R	153
C4L3	151	C4R1	141	X2R	143
C4L2	151			X3R	116
C4L1	131	C5R3	135	X4R	84
		C5R2	135		
C5L3	125	C5R1	115	X3D	110
C5L2	125			X4D	80
C5L1	105	C3M3	132		
		C3M2	132	X3M	84
C1F3	214	C3M1	117	X4M	59
C1F2	214				
C1F1	199	C4M3	102	X3G	84
		C4M2	102	X4G	49
C2F3	204	C4M1	92		
C2F2	204				
C2F1	189	C5M3	72		
		C5M2	72		
C3F3	193	C5M1	62		
C3F2	193				
C3F1	178	C3G3	132		
		C3G2	132		
C4F3	166	C3G1	117		
C4F2	166				
C4F1	146	C4G3	107		
		C4G2	107		
C5F3	135	C4G1	97		
C5F2	135				
C5F1	119	C5G3	72		

Tobacco graded X5L, X5F, X5R, X5D, X5M, X5G, N1L, N1R, N1G, N2L, N2R, N2G, "U" (unsound) "No-G" (no-grade), the special factor "W" (doubtful keeping order), tobacco marked with "BH" (big heads), or scrap will not be accepted. Dark air-cured tobacco marked with the special factor "BL" (broad leaf) will have an advance rate 20 percent below the advance rate otherwise applicable.

1997 CROP FIRE-CURED TOBACCO PRICE SUPPORT SCHEDULE
(TYPES 22 & 23)

GRADE	LOAN RATE	GRADE	LOAN RATE	GRADE	LOAN RATE
(Cents per pound farm sales weight)					
A1F3	236	B5F3	162	B5M2	102
A1F2	236	B5F2	162	B5M1	89
		B5F1	143		
A2F3	226			B3VF3	162
A2F2	226	B1D3	201	B3VF2	162
		B1D2	201	B3VF1	147
A3F3	216	B1D1	186		
A3F2	216			B4VF3	144
		B2D3	196	B4VF2	144
A1D3	236	B2D2	196	B4VF1	120
A1D2	236	B2D1	181		
				B5VF3	114
A2D3	226	B3D3	188	B5VF2	114
A2D2	226	B3D2	188	B5VF1	97
		B3D1	173		
A3D3	216			B3G3	134
A3D2	216	B4D3	170	B3G2	134
		B4D2	170	B3G1	114
B1F3	220	B4D1	150		
B1F2	220			B4G3	112
B1F1	205	B5D3	155	B4G2	112
		B5D2	155	B4G1	99
B2F3	210	B5D1	133		
B2F2	210			B5G3	93
B2F1	195	B3M3	142	B5G2	93
		B3M2	142	B5G1	83
B3F3	202	B3M1	124		
B3F2	202			C1L3	197
B3F1	182	B4M3	125	C1L2	197
		B4M2	125	C1L1	182
B4F3	188	B4M1	105		
B4F2	188			C2L3	189
B4F1	168	B5M3	102	C2L2	189

GRADE	LOAN RATE	GRADE	LOAN RATE	GRADE	LOAN RATE
(Cents per pound farm sales weight)					
C2L1	174	C3D2	188	C5G3	93
		C3D1	173	C5G2	93
C3L3	178			C5G1	83
C3L2	178	C4D3	170		
C3L1	163	C4D2	170	X1L	147
		C4D1	150	X2L	132
C4L3	161			X3L	117
C4L2	161	C5D3	155	X4L	105
C4L1	147	C5D2	155	X5L	97
		C5D1	133		
C5L3	150			X1F	151
C5L2	150	C3M3	142	X2F	144
C5L1	137	C3M2	142	X3F	134
		C3M1	124	X4F	121
C1F3	220			X5F	108
C1F2	220	C4M3	125		
C1F1	205	C4M2	125	X1D	149
		C4M1	105	X2D	139
C2F3	210			X3D	127
C2F2	210	C5M3	102	X4D	107
C2F1	195	C5M2	102	X5D	88
		C5M1	89		
C3F3	202			X3M	92
C3F2	202	C3VF3	162	X4M	72
C3F1	182	C3VF2	162	X5M	52
		C3VF1	147		
C4F3	188			X3VF	120
C4F2	188	C4VF3	144	X4VF	100
C4F1	168	C4VF2	144	X5VF	80
		C4VF1	120		
C5F3	162			X3G	96
C5F2	162	C5VF3	114	X4G	74
C5F1	143	C5VF2	114	X5G	51
		C5VF1	97		
C1D3	201				
C1D2	201	C3G3	134		
C1D1	186	C3G2	134		
		C3G1	114		
C2D3	196				
C2D2	196	C4G3	112		
C2D1	181	C4G2	112		
		C4G1	99		
C3D3	188				

Tobacco graded N1L, N1D, N1GL, N1GX, N2, "U" (unsound)
 "No-G" (no-grade) or tobacco marked with the special factor
 "W" (doubtful keeping order) will not be accepted. Tobacco that
 receives a "semi-fired" designation on the grade will receive a
 30 percent reduction in the applicable grade rate.